

What is claimed is:

1. An output service system comprising:

at least one client for generating order information for ordering output of material data; and

5 at least one output server for outputting the material data based on the order information provided from the client or clients,

the order information including a pointer for obtaining the material data; and

10 the output server or output servers obtaining the material data stored at a location other than the output server or output servers based on the pointer included in the order information.

2. An output service system as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a relay server existing between the at least one client and the at least one output server, the relay server selecting one of the at least one output server as an apparatus for outputting the material data according to the order information from the at least one client and providing the order information to the selected server.

3. An output service system as defined in Claim 2, wherein the relay server comprises servers at a plurality of steps.

4. An output service system as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the order information is provided to the output server or servers via a network.

5. An output service system as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the order information is provided to the output server or servers by being recorded in a recording medium.

5 6. A computer-readable recording medium storing order information for ordering output of material data, the order information including a pointer to obtain the material data.

10 7. A method of outputting material data according to order information including a pointer for obtaining the material data, the order output method comprising the steps of:

obtaining the material data based on the pointer included in the order information; and

15 outputting the material data that have been obtained.

8. An order output apparatus for outputting material data according to order information including a pointer for obtaining the material data, the order output apparatus comprising:

20 acquisition means for obtaining the material data based on the pointer included in the order information; and

output means for outputting the material data that have been obtained.

25 9. A computer-readable recording medium storing a program to cause a computer to execute an order output method for outputting material data based on order information

including a pointer for obtaining the material data, the  
program comprising the procedures of:

obtaining the material data based on the pointer  
included in the order information; and

5        outputting the material data that have been obtained.